

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe

Brings You News

February 3, 2003



Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Protecting your Privacy

As technology advances, so do opportunities to use our personal information in ways that infringe on our privacy. In recent months, drivers' licenses are beginning to be used by many businesses to do more than just verify age and identity. The driver's license is now being electronically scanned or "swiped" by many businesses to download personal information from the magnetic strip on the license, then store, sell, share, and/or use that information for marketing, profiling, and other purposes. I believe this is an invasion of your privacy and have introduced legislation to ban the practice.

By swiping the card, a person's address, telephone number, age, gender, height, weight, eye color, and hair color can all be downloaded. This information can be stored electronically and may be used to directly subject consumers to unwanted marketing solicitations and profiling. The information may also inadvertently subject the consumer to identity theft and personal harassment.

My legislation, AB 224, would protect consumers from having their driver's licenses scanned and their personal identification information stored, sold, or shared by business establishments.

AB 224 is supported strongly by the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, which is based in San Diego, and will be heard in its first policy committee in March 2003. If you're interested in learning more about this bill, you can go to www.leginfo.gov and search for AB 224. You may also contact Alicia Priego of my Capitol office staff at (916) 319-2076.

For general information about privacy issues, you can visit the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse online at <http://www.privacyrights.org>. The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse is a nonprofit consumer education, research, and advocacy program.

Allowing the full examination of DNA evidence

I recently introduced legislation, AB 155, to allow prosecutors and law enforcement additional time when necessary to examine DNA evidence before going to trial.

I was asked to author this bill as a result of the trial of the murder of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam. In that case, the San Diego District Attorney was compelled to rush to trial before full examination of the DNA evidence was completed. This placed the case itself at risk and created unnecessary costs for both the district attorney and law enforcement.

This legislation is co-sponsored by the San Diego District Attorney and the California District Attorney's Association and will be eligible to be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee in March, 2003.

To read the text of this bill, you can go to www.leginfo.gov and search for AB 155. You may also contact Gil Topete of my Capitol office staff at (916) 319-2076.

LGBT Unveils its 2003 Legislative Priorities

Last week, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Legislative Caucus unveiled its legislative priorities for the 2003 session. These priorities reinforce the caucus' commitment to advance the cause of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and all Californians regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We look forward to working with the coalition of organizations led by California Alliance for Price and Equality (CAPE) and supportive legislators to move these measures forward. The five-member caucus has the following bills as their top priorities for 2003:

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- **AB 17** (Kehoe) - Equal Benefits in State Contracts - Prohibit a state agency from contracting with businesses that discriminate in providing employment benefits between an employee with a spouse and an employee with a registered domestic partner.
- **AB 196** (Leno) - Gender Nondiscrimination Bill – Prohibit gender-based discrimination in employment and housing.
- **Foster Youth Anti-Discrimination Act of 2003** (Chu) – Explicitly prohibit the discrimination and harassment of foster children and caregivers on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- **AB 205** (Goldberg) – Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003 – Expand the rights and responsibilities currently provided to registered domestic partners and their families to include nearly all the legal rights, benefits, responsibilities, duties, and obligations under state law currently available only to married couples.

If you're interested in learning more about any of these bills, you can go to www.leginfo.gov and search by bill number or author. You may also contact Eric Astaacan of my Capitol office staff at (916) 319-2076.

Help Available to Pay for College

Did you know that the Cal Grant Program provides eligible students with financial aid in the form of need-based grants funded by the State of California? The program is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). Cal Grants are intended for middle and low-income California residents attending California post-secondary schools.

Cal Grant A awards, which are targeted to middle and low-income families, cover educational and registration fees and are in the amount of \$3,429 per year for four years, assuming the student is a freshman when he or she receives his or her initial award.

Cal Grant B awards are intended for students from very low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds. The award provides a stipend of \$1,548 in the freshman year and both fees and stipend awards totaling \$4,977 each year thereafter.

For more information on the Cal Grant Program, how to obtain an application, or how to fill out an application, high school students can contact their college counselors, or call the California Student Aid Commission at 1-888-224-7268. Additionally, the commission has a web site: www.csac.ca.gov. Don't miss this chance to get help paying for college.

Visit my "Mobile Office" in February

On Saturday February 22, I'm setting up a "Mobile Office" in Pacific Beach.

My Mobile Office hours will be 10 a.m. –noon. The office will be set up in front of VONS Market at 1702 Garnet Ave., at the corner of Jewel and Garnet.

This is a great opportunity for you to come by for a chat and let me know about issues that are important to you. A CHP officer will also be on hand from 11:00 a.m. until noon to conduct free safety fingerprinting for children.

For more information, call (619) 294-7600. I hope to see you there!

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